

Manchuria

Work & Progress in the Old Manchu Homeland

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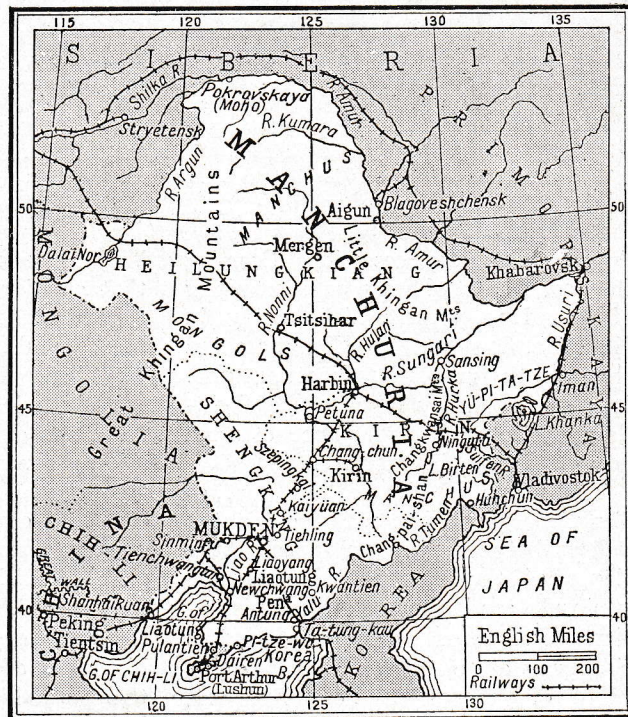
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MANCHURIA, which lies to the north-east of and abuts on China proper (the subject of a separate section of this work), is an integral part of the Chinese Republic. In the early days of the seventeenth century it was an agglomeration of Manchu and Tartar tribes welded into one kingdom by a Manchu chieftain named Nurhachu and his successors who, pushing south and west, overthrew the great Ming dynasty and seated themselves on the throne of China at Peking.

Nurhachu, to distinguish such Chinese as joined his forces from his foes, compelled them to adopt the Manchu custom of shaving the forehead and wearing the hair in a queue, a custom that spread to the whole of China. He also gave the Manchus a written language based on Mongol. His tomb is in the neighbourhood of Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, which closely resembles the Tartar city of Peking in structure and appearance, but is on a much smaller scale.

Manchuria, therefore, which is known to the Chinese as Tung San Sheng (the Three Eastern Provinces), was the fatherland of the late Manchu dynasty, the Ta Ch'ing Ch'ao (the Great Pure dynasty), which reigned in China from 1644 to the Revolution of 1911. The three provinces are Fengtien or Sheng-king,

in the south, area 60,000 square miles, capital Mukden; Kirin, in the centre, area 110,000 square miles, capital Kirin; and Heilungkiang, area 190,000 square miles, capital Tsitsihar (Lung Kiang Hsien). The total population is variously estimated from 13,000,000 to 20,000,000, and the provinces are ruled by governors appointed by the Chinese Government. Fengtien approaches more closely in its government and constitution to the rest of China itself than either Kirin or Heilungkiang. Its better development is due to the fact that, prior to the advent of the Manchu dynasty, its southern part was, during the Ming



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PLAITED HAT THAT SHADES A SHAVEN POLL

This Manchurian coolie tilts his hat to the angle of the sun's torrid rays from which it is necessary for even the native to shelter. A simple head-covering, it is constructed of plaited straw

dynasty, a Chinese possession. Forming the western part of Fengtien is the valley of the Liao river which, rising in Mongolia, flows east into Fengtien, and then south into the Liaotung gulf. It is navigated by thousands of light-draught boats for a distance of some 200 miles from its mouth.

The whole of the eastern part of Fengtien is hilly, with cultivated valleys between, and on the southern slopes of the hills in the Liaotung peninsula are largely cultivated plantations of scrub oak, on whose branches silkworms are placed to feed. A large part of the north of Fengtien, originally reserved as an Imperial hunting-ground, has been opened up

to Chinese settlers, and has become a great and busy centre of agricultural life.

The usual trees met within the western or level portion of Fengtien are the willow, elm, and pine, which mark villages and family burial-grounds, while in the hilly eastern and north-eastern areas, especially along the banks of the Yalu, there are thick forests of oak, elm, pine, walnut, birch, spruce, and plane, with dense undergrowth. Two great lumber markets, Antung and Tatungkou, are open ports on the right bank of the Yalu near its mouth, whither large logs from the forests of Fengtien and Kirin find their way down that river and its tributaries for distribution throughout northern China.

In the west of Kirin, as in Fengtien, there is a continuation of the Mongolian steppes. In the south-east rises the Chang Pai Shan, or Ever

White Mountain, belonging to the range that culminates in the Pai Tou Shan (White Capped Mountain), 8,000 feet in height, and so named from the pumice which surrounds its summit.

The whole range is volcanic, and in the crater of the Pai Tou Shan is a lake six to seven miles in circumference, 300 feet below its rim. A large lake of lava, crossed by the high road, overlies swampy ground between the cities of Kirin and Ninguta, some 150 miles to the north-east.

The Chang Pai Shan is the reputed birthplace of Nurhachu, and near Kirin there is a hill called the Hsiao Chang Pai Shan (the Small Ever White Mountain), whither the authorities of

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the province used to repair twice a year and officially do homage to the ancestors of the dynasty.

In the Chang Pai Shan rise three rivers—the Sungari, Hurka, and Tumen. The Sungari, on leaving the Chang Pai Shan, flows north-west towards Mongolia; but on reaching Petuna, near which it is joined by the Nonni flowing from Heilungkiang, it bends sharply to the east and then goes north to the Amur, into which it flows at a distance of 160 miles from the Ussuri.

The Sungari is navigated by light-draught steamers from its mouth to

Petuna, a distance of 640 miles, and smaller steamers have even ascended as far as Kirin, the capital, which is beautifully situated on the left bank of the river in a bend where, sweeping from east to west, it turns sharply north towards Petuna, distant some 160 miles. The Sungari, from its junction with the Nonni to its mouth, and the Amur eastward to the Ussuri, are the northern boundaries of Kirin.

The Ussuri, which in its lowest section is the boundary of Kirin and Russian Primorskaya to the east, is also navigated as far as Iman, about 250 miles



OVER THE LONG, WIDE BRIDGE OF DAIREN'S COSMOPOLITAN PORT

This great structure, called the Nippon Bridge, with its balustrading and ornamental lamp standards, would be a credit to any Occidental city, for Dairen has received attention from both Russians and Japanese. Known to the former as Dalny it was captured in their struggle with Japan and ceded to Dai Nippon under the Portsmouth Treaty. It is situated on the Liaotung Peninsula

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from its junction with the Amur. As in the case of the Yalu, lumber is floated down from the higher reaches of the Sungari to the city of Kirin, where, besides being used for boat-building—whence Kirin derives its Chinese name of Chuan-chang, or Dockyard—it is used on a gigantic scale in building and as material for fencing compounds.

cultivated. This is the home of the Yü-pi-ta-tze, or Fish-skin Tartars, who derive their name from their clothing, which they manufacture from the skins of the tamara salmon. They are a race of fishermen, whose great harvest occurs when the salmon ascend the Ussuri and Sungari in such shoals that, in their haste, they push each other ashore and



MUKDEN'S MAIN STREET WHERE ANCIENT JOSTLES MODERN

Mukden, capital of Manchuria and cradle of the Manchu dynasty, whose walls embrace a ten-mile circuit, and which gave its name to a great battle in the Russo-Japanese war, presents strange contrasts with its time-worn gates and latter-day telegraph-poles. Along the line of booths that flank this road are numerous shop-signs in characters which have not changed since Confucius died

Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter

West of the Sungari the soil is for the most part fine, level, loamy, and well cultivated. Much of the northern part of this area, between the Upper Sungari and the Hurka, is still virgin steppe. In the river valleys the husbandman is at work, but the south is given up to the trapper, lumberer, ginseng collector and grower, and the seeker for gold. The section between the Hurka and the Ussuri is far less developed and

have only to be scooped up, salted, dried, and smoked.

The northern, and largest, province derives its name from the Amur, which is called in Chinese the Hei Lung Kiang, or "Black Dragon River." The traveller in May and June cannot fail to be struck by its black, peaty colour, due to the melting of the snow, but especially of the ice which holds it fast for six or seven months of the



AVENUE OF THE BRASS BAZAAR IN MUKDEN AND ITS CROWDED SIGNS

It is seldom quiet in this narrow alley, for whenever the wind blows there is an incessant tintinnabulation of brassware slung from poles and a constant hoarse creaking of the long, flat, painted boards that act as signs to attract passing customers. This ancient city of the Manchus was opened to foreign trade in 1903, and forms a junction on the Trans-Siberian Railway to Port Arthur

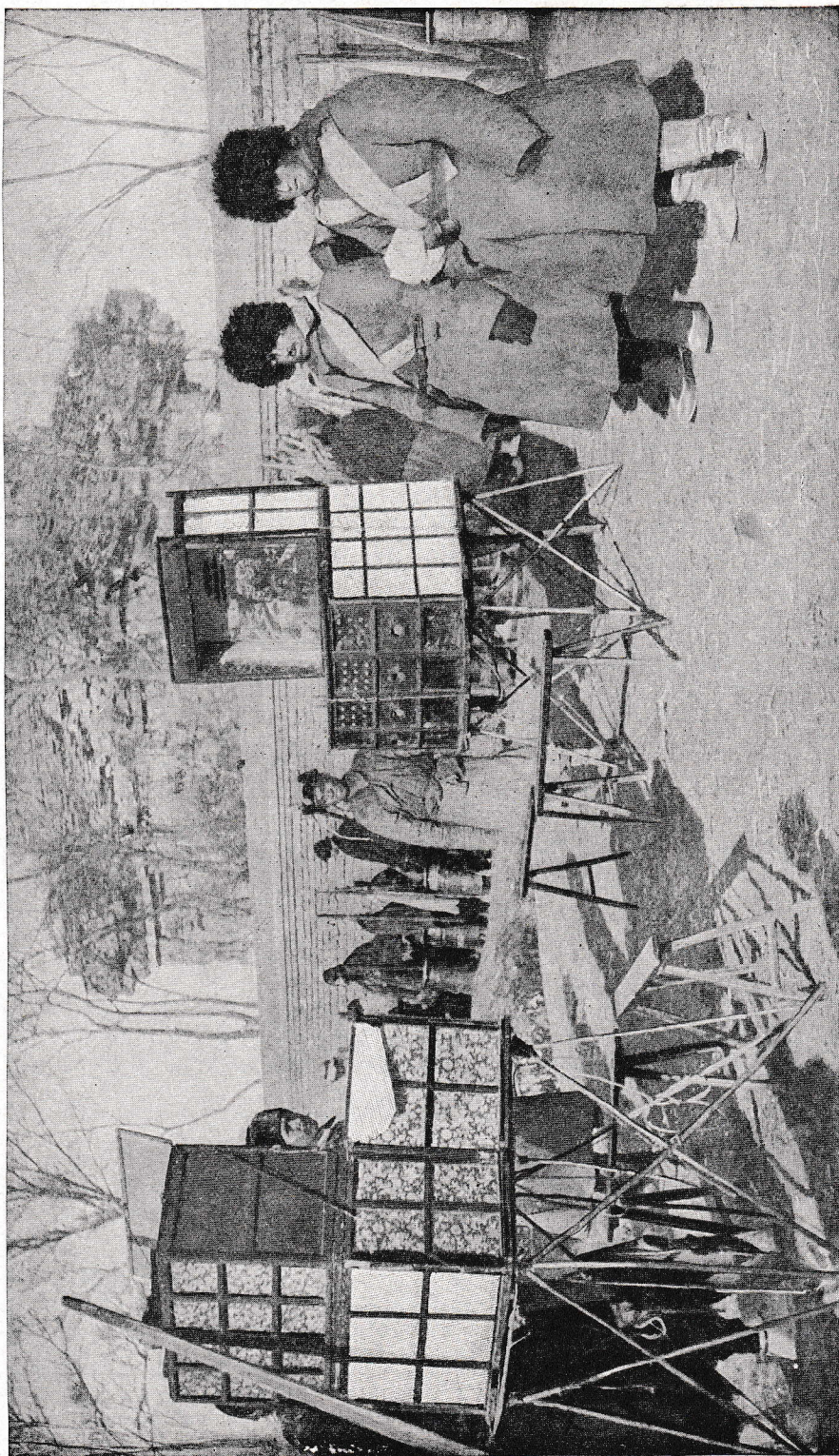
Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter



WHERE MUKDEN'S MARKETS HAVE OVERFLOWED HER CITY WALLS

Under the frowning battlements that for so many years guarded the power of the Manchus, booths and stalls of commerce are pitched instead of enemies' tents, and battle has given place to barter. Between the long lines of these flimsy emporiums, with their differing wares and many-coloured roof-coverings, buyers wander, and at leisure make their choice. In the foreground is a shoe stall

Photo, H. I. Merriman



WANDERING MOUNTBANKS OF THE HUNGUS DISPLAY THE ATTRACTIONS OF THEIR TRAVELLING PEEP-SHOW
 Taking life as they find it, the Hungus are ready to turn their hand to anything that promises to be profitable, whether it be highway robbery, bear-training, or the more peaceful occupation in which they are seen engaged above. Two light benches are placed in front of the opened box, which is constructed in such a way that it readily folds up for purposes of transport, and on these benches there is accommodation for four people who each have a peep-hole through which to see the show



BRUIN PUT THROUGH HIS PACES BY HIS HUNGUS TRAINER BEFORE A SMILING FUR-HATTED AUDIENCE

Held by a stout chain in case of emergency this well-trained bear shuffles awkwardly on his great hind-legs round the ring of amused spectators, manipulating his pole to the commands and exhortations of his Hungus trainer. A confederate or two, also of this race, which for the most part has taken to brigandage, explore the pockets of the interested, coaxing from them reward for this exhibition of skill on the part of their hairy pupil—a popular figure in Manchuria



FILE OF LADEN COOLIES THAT DO A CRANE'S DUTY AT HARBIN

Carrying three sacks apiece this string of riverside workers is loading the capacious hold of a cargo-boat with flour. Harbin stands on the river Sungari, some three hundred miles north-east of Mukden, and is an important trade centre. Alongside the lading craft is seen a stern-wheel paddle-steamer, and, in the distance, the Chinese Eastern Railway crosses the river

Photo, Maynard Owen Williams

year, and which breaks into blocks ten feet thick.

In the west the Great Khingan Mountains run north and south from the Amur into Mongolia, and in Lat. 48° N. and Long. 127° E., two ranges, known as the Little Khingan Mountains, meet, one going north to the west of Aigun, the other east towards the junction of the Sungari and the Amur. From these, lesser ranges branch east and west, north and south. In the western range, about sixty miles from the Argun river, rises the Nonni, which, on its way to the Sungari, passes on its left bank the towns of Mergen and Tsitsihar, the capital of Heilungkiang. It is navigable by large junks from the Sungari as far as the capital, and by boats of light draught to Mergen.

The Amur, which forms the northern frontier of Heilungkiang, from the mouth of the Ussuri westwards, and which receives its name after the confluence of the Shilka and the Argun,

although obstructed by many sandbanks, is navigable by steamer throughout its length. The Shilka is navigable by steamers of light draught as far as Stryetensk in Siberia, or even beyond.

The mountain ranges of Heilungkiang, mostly volcanic, are thickly clad with forests of birch and pine, and the agricultural area is confined to the river valleys, especially those of the Nonni and Hulan. A great part of the south-west is occupied by Mongols, who graze their herds of cattle, ponies, sheep, goats, and pigs on the grass-covered steppes.

Game abounds in the mountains and on the steppes, and includes the tiger, bear, leopard, deer, antelope, roe-deer, and wild boar. Such animals, also, as the sable, squirrel, weasel, land-otter, wolf, hare, badger, wild-cat, and fox are hunted for their skins. Then comes winged game, including bustard, swan, goose, duck, teal, black grouse, woodcock, partridge, pheasant, snipe, and quail. The sportsman, however, runs

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the risk of being himself hunted by brigands, or eaten up by myriads of midges, mosquitoes, and gadflies, which during the warmer months render travelling not only dangerous but frequently impossible. In the far north, as in Mongolia, there are many small farms where dogs are bred for their skins, which attain great thickness and fineness in the winter months.

The climate of Manchuria, owing to its great extremes of temperature, has a very important bearing on the life of the people, the crops, and the means of transport. Of the population, not more than 10 per cent. are Manchus, who are mostly to be found at the capitals and in the outlying districts of Kirin and Heilungkiang.

What the primitive weapons of the Manchus effected in China in the

seventeenth century, the rude agricultural implements of the Chinese are accomplishing in Manchuria to-day. The Manchus were warriors, fishermen, and hunters, while the Chinese are born agriculturists. They have even pushed to the north of the Sungari into Heilungkiang, which was until recently a penal settlement, mostly for Manchus. Of the criminals banished to Heilungkiang many escaped and turned brigands, terrorising and plundering the peaceably disposed traders and farmers. Brigandage has been and still is one of the darkest blots on Manchuria, and Chinese officials, in spite of continued and vigorous efforts, find it hard to wipe it out.

There are Mongols in the south-west of Heilungkiang, and in Fengtien and Kirin there is a steady influx of Koreans. The great bulk of the population,



MANCHURIAN LADIES AND THEIR FLOWER-DECKED HEADGEAR

Those of Manchuria's women who enjoy the more leisured walks of life have a certain daintiness of mien and charm of habiliment, especially in the matter of hats. But they are not free from the Chinese persuasion that small feet are the essential adjunct of true beauty, and these ladies have squeezed their toes into quaint and delicate contrivances that cover unpleasing deformity



ROBED IN THE RAIMENT OF AUTHORITY

In the East, power usually manifests itself in the outward seeming, and the Hungus make no exception to this rule. Here is a functionary who fulfils roughly the duties of aide-de-camp to a bandit chief

Chinese gentlemen in their long straight gowns. The peasant wears the blue cotton jacket and loose breeches characteristic of the Chinese, except that in winter he supplements this with several other cotton suits and, frequently, a sheepskin over all, with the fur inside. On the other hand, there can be no mistake about the Manchu lady. Her erect carriage, due, no doubt, to her natural feet, her distinctive coiffure and dress, at once mark her as non-Chinese.

The chief industry is agriculture, and the main crop cultivated for food is the great millet, known to the Chinese as kaoliang. Not only is it the staple food of the people, it is a common feed for beasts of burden, and is also largely used in the distillation of a strong spirit called samshu, the dregs being fed to pigs, large numbers of which are annually fattened for home consumption and export to China. These pigs yield excellent

however, is Chinese from Shantung and Chihli, and they bring their customs with them. Some 30,000 labourers used to arrive in Newchwang by steamer as soon as that port opened in spring, and railways have materially helped the stream of immigration. Many bring their families with them and become settlers themselves, while others return to their homes after harvest to await the following spring.

Ethnologically speaking, there is no apparent difference between Manchu and Chinese, and, to the European eye, no distinction between Manchu and

bristles, which are exported in large quantities, mostly through the port of Tientsin.

The great millet, which occupies the ground from April to the end of September, and attains a height of about twelve feet, serves many other useful purposes besides food; the wavy heads, after the removal of the grains by stone rollers, are converted into brooms; the stems are split and woven into mats, or used whole in bridge and house building; and, where they are abundant, they are, like the roots which are dug up before winter, used as fuel.



WALKING MISCELLANY OF RAGS THAT ONCE WERE CLOTHES

It is unpleasant to think that anything human can come to such a state as this Chinese beggar, whose peregrinations have led his shambling feet through most parts of Manchuria. Yet the one who probably minds least is himself, for his smile is hearty enough. The ragged tree-branch that serves him for a staff adds to the uncouth semblance of this ambling figure of cheerful obesity

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The rolling plains of Northern Manchuria resemble those of Canada, and since the Russo-Japanese war there has been a continuous expansion in wheat cultivation with a simultaneous growth in the number of modern flour mills.

The two smaller millets, known as Hsiao Mi and Huang Mi, barley, buckwheat, maize, rice and "Job's tears"

in two or three months, and two crops may be gathered off the same ground in the short season of from six to seven months. Maize is more generally grown in the south of Fengtien, where it is largely consumed as food. Ordinary rice, which requires a continuous water-supply, is little cultivated in Manchuria, although its cultivation has been



DROSHKY THAT PLIES FOR HIRE IN MUKDEN'S CROWDED STREETS.

Russia set her seal upon the face of Mukden, and of this influence some traces yet survive. This particular vehicle, usually exclusively associated with Russia, is here seen patiently waiting on fortune. The huge magnet-like collar of the horse is distinctive of Russian harness. Only the Oriental architecture of the roofs beyond show this is a Manchurian scene

Photo, H. I. Merriman

are all also grown for food, and their straw is used as fodder. The Hsiao Mi is used as a change of diet from the great millet, while the Huang Mi is ground into flour which is baked into cakes with fruit and confectionery with brown sugar. Barley meal is baked into cakes, and crushed barley, with the addition of peas or beans, is made into yeast bricks for use in the many spirit distilleries of the northern provinces. Buckwheat is a catch crop, ripening

considerably increased in the Liaotung peninsula. Another variety, upland rice, being a dry crop, is grown successfully in parts of the central and southern provinces. "Job's tears" are more sparingly grown in the north, yielding what is erroneously called "pearl barley," which they resemble, and are used for medicine as well as food.

The most valuable crop, as an article of export, is pulse, including the well-known soya bean and its products,



CHEMISTS IN THE MAKING AT AN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL IN DAIREN

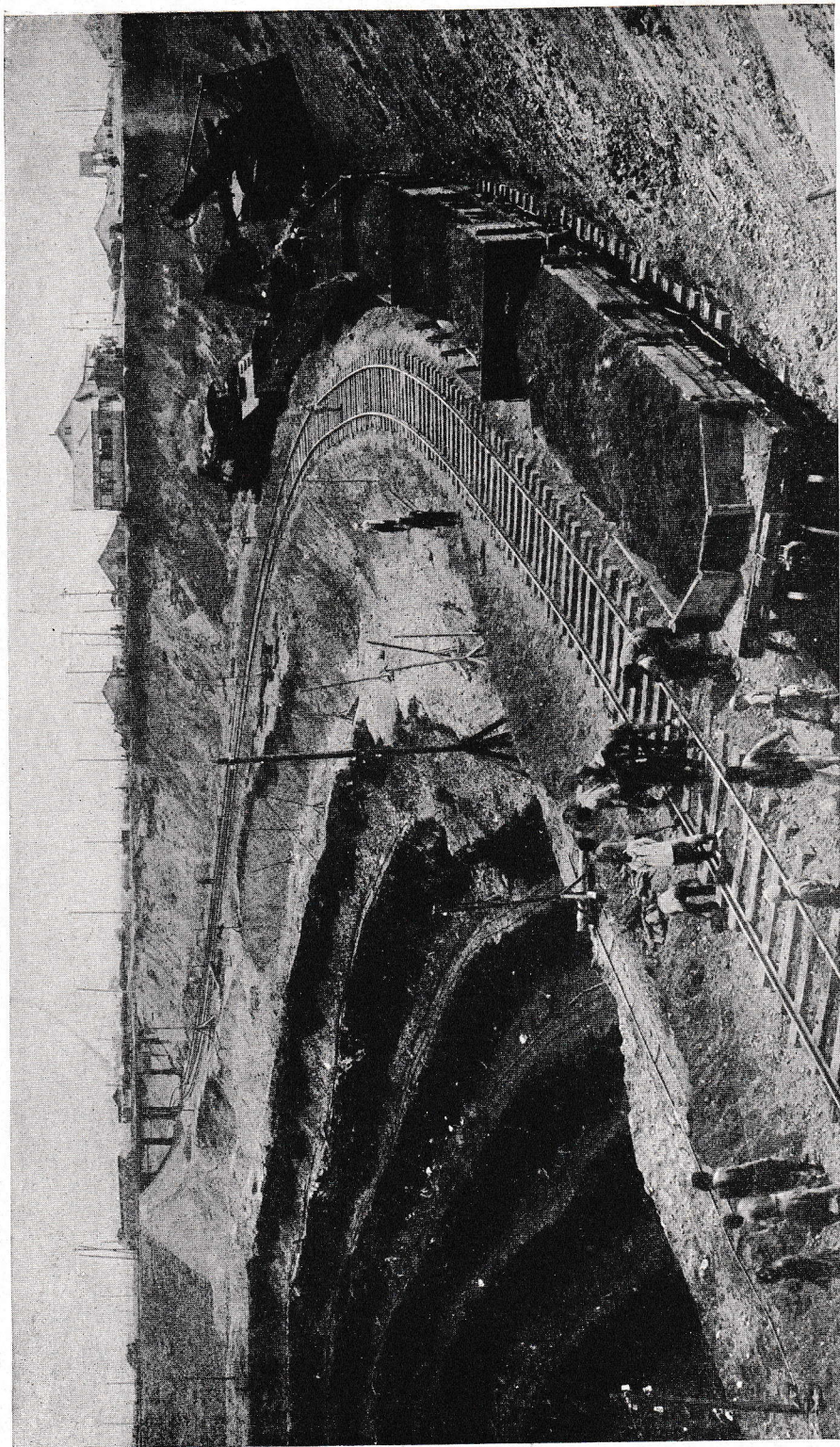
Though the East was famed for its cultivation of learning and its pursuit of science long years before Western knowledge could claim consideration, yet now the Orient is prepared to follow the lead given by the West with its more progressive spirit. This laboratory, with its wealth of apparatus, is filled with Manchurians eager for knowledge among their glittering assortment of test tubes and flasks



MANCHURIAN GIRLS IN EUROPEAN DRESS LEARNING WESTERN EMBROIDERY

In contrast to their teachers, who retain their Chinese costume, these Mukden girls in their school established by American enterprise, have adopted a foreign habiliment. As can be seen, the room is both well lit and ventilated, and, besides the needlework going on among the majority of the class, there are some hand-loom on the left. The pattern being copied is a flower drawn on the blackboard

Photos, South Manchuria Railway Co.



WHERE COAL-MINERS WORK IN THE LIGHT OF DAY: OPEN SEAMS AT FUSHUN'S GREAT COLLIERY

In the province of Fengtien is the great coal-mining centre of Fushun, whose collieries belong to the South Manchuria Railway. The coalfields here are almost unparalleled for the abundance and thickness of their seams, which are believed to contain an aggregate of eight hundred million tons. This photograph shows excavation going on in the side of the bank, the steam-shovel emptying its contents into the trucks hauled by a powerful engine. Coolies swarm like ants in the seams below, along each of which runs a light railway to bear away the product of their labour

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bean cake and bean oil. This bean occupies the ground from April to September, but is frequently grown between rows of the great millet, the long leaves of which are stripped from the lower part of the stalk in autumn to admit sunshine, and thereby hasten the ripening of the seeds. There are three varieties of the soya bean—yellow, green, and black—each with several sub-varieties; but the yellow is the most highly prized for its oil, which is used both for cooking and lighting. The chief value of the bean is for the residue cake, which is exported in enormous quantities for fertilising purposes, mainly to Japan.

The bean curd and bean sprouts are favourite dishes among the Chinese, while the foliage and cake are fed to cattle. Abroad the bean is made into flour and bread, roasted and sold as coffee beans, and artificial milk is produced from it. The oil is used for lubrication, illumination and salad dressing, and in the manufacture of butter, celluloid, explosives, glycerine, linoleum, paints, printing inks, soaps, and waterproof. It is also used as a substitute for indiarubber.

A still smaller bean, *Phaseolus Mungo*, two crops of which can be harvested during the season, is also grown, its flour being made into vermicelli, the manufacture of which is a considerable industry in Manchuria. Six other oil seeds are cultivated: castor, which is the most important, being produced and exported in large quantities; sesamum, perilla, cotton, hemp, and

ground-nut, this last being used mostly for food, little oil being extracted from it.

Only one dye-plant is cultivated in Manchuria, the Dyer's Knotweed, from whose leaves an indigo is extracted

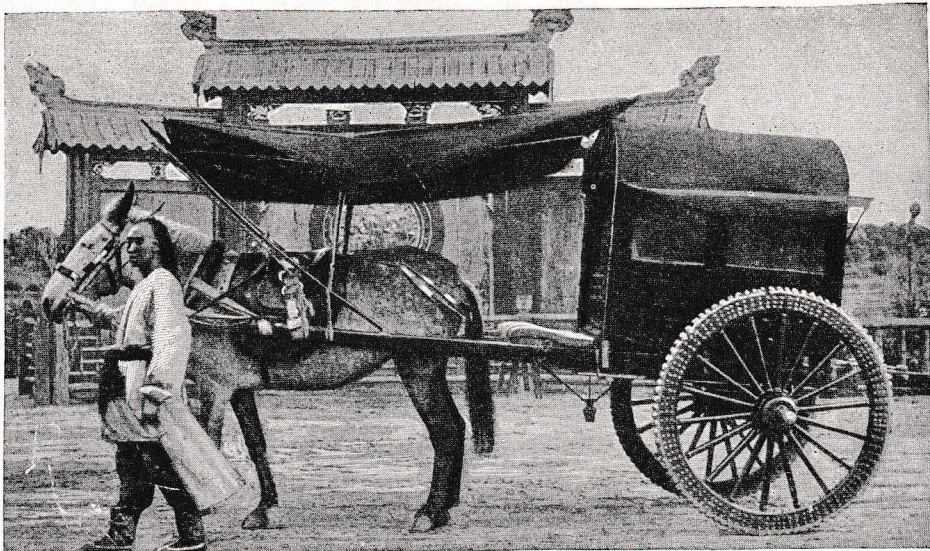


PEASANT MOTHER AIDING EARLY STEPS

Winding through the springing crops, the country path, rutted and hoof-marked, makes rough going for little feet. This tiny Manchu toddles, secure in his mother's grasp, upon some country errand from the quiet farm

which is universally used in the numerous dye-houses. Three fibre-yielding plants are grown: cotton, common or Russian hemp, and abutilon hemp, often misnamed jute.

Tobacco is grown in all three provinces, Kirin especially being noted for its superior leaf, and there are various modern factories engaged in converting it into the cigarettes now so popular among the Chinese, chiefly at Mukden and Harbin. The sugar-beet is a



WHERE MUDDY ROADS HAVE EVOLVED A SPECIAL TYPE OF WHEEL

Though horse-drawn vehicles are still more numerous in Manchuria than motor-cars, yet the non-skid tire has preceded the latter and been applied to carts and carriages. Local road surfaces are none too good, and the arrangement seen above adds considerably to the appearance of the equipage.

The curtain stretched over the shafts affords the horse a welcome shade from the sun

recent introduction. In 1907 it was being successfully cultivated on an experimental farm at Dairen. To-day this beet is grown round Harbin and in the north-west of Kirin province, where there are two sugar factories—Russian and Chinese, and there is a third Japanese factory near Mukden.

Before the anti-opium crusade of 1906, opium used to be extensively grown throughout Manchuria, which supplied its own needs and exported, largely by cart, overland to China. By 1911, when the Revolution broke out, poppy cultivation, except on the borders of the Primorsk province of Siberia, had ceased; but, as in China proper, the Republican Government, weakened by internecine strife, has been unable to eradicate it.

The vegetables of Manchuria include potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, carrots, garlic, onions, celery, brinjals, taros, and the Shantung cabbage, with its immense heart. They also comprise many forms and varieties of the cucurbitaceae, such as melons, pumpkins, squashes, marrows, cucumbers, and gourds, and in the north a species of melon is grown expressly for its seeds,

which are frequently served as a preliminary to a meal, for which the seeds of the sunflower, though more sparingly grown, are also used. Three kinds of edible fungi are grown on dead wood, mostly in the east of Kirin province.

In the north, grapes, strawberries, barberries, gooseberries, and currants are found wild; but the cultivated fruits in the central and southern provinces are grapes, apples, plums, apricots, the kernels of which are exported under the name of "bitter almonds," and coarse pears, except one sweet variety grown in the Liaoyang district, which is preserved and packed in boxes like figs. Cherries are grown in Fengtien, but are small and poor in quality.

Farms are of considerable size, and fields frequently run to many acres. The Chinese colonist builds himself a one-storeyed flat-roofed homestead of sun-dried bricks, in which he instals a "k'ang" or brick bedstead with flues underneath, through which smoke and heat pass from a fireplace to a chimney outside. By this means he keeps himself warm through the rigours of winter. He ploughs his land with oxen, mules, ponies, or donkeys, and

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his primitive plough has but one handle. In the south of Fengtien, the husbandman, in addition to farming, engages in the production of wild silk from the silkworm known as *anthaerea pernyi*, which yields both spring and autumn cocoons.

Unlike the *bombyx mori* of China proper, which is reared, fed, and spins its cocoons in the house, this silkworm feeds and spins in the open on the leaves of several species of oak. The cocoons are collected from the trees, packed in tall wicker baskets, and sent, either to reeling centres in Manchuria,

such as Antung, Dairen, and Newchwang, where in recent years steam filatures have been established, or exported to other parts of China, notably Chefoo, in Shantung province, where they are reeled and the silk manufactured into pongees. A considerable quantity of this wild Manchurian silk is also exported abroad to be manufactured, mostly into plushes.

Manchuria is fairly rich in metals and minerals, particularly gold, silver, copper, and coal. In Heilungkiang gold is won from the beds of tributaries of the Argun south of its confluence with



SKILLED ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE VERSATILE HUNGUS

Among other ways of obtaining a living some of the Hungus give conjuring performances at which they have attained considerable skill. This particular adept in sleight of hand is not merely content to emphasise that there is nothing up his sleeve, but, to make the feat more marvellous, has stripped to the waist. Despite all this, he is successful in producing a bouquet from his mouth

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the Shilka, and of streams flowing into the Amur, the chief mining centres being some twenty miles to the south of the city of Moho in the extreme north, and at Taipingkow and Kwan-yinshan in the east. In Kirin it is

order, and they ultimately prohibited mining altogether.

Silver and copper are mined at Tienpaoshan in the Yenki district of Kirin. Iron is found and worked in Fengtien, within the district of Tiehling, and with coal, in the Penki district. Chino-Japanese smelting works are established at Penki, whose blazing furnaces at night recall the Black Country of England, and where the manufacture of pottery is also carried on, and at Anshanchan.

Coal is found in great abundance in Kirin and Fengtien, especially the latter, where the Fushun colliery is in Japanese hands, and is the second most productive in China. To the south of Mukden excellent coal is found, also in the north of the Liaotung peninsula, and in the south-west and east of the province. It is also mined to the south of the city of Kirin, and in the east not far from the Korean frontier.

In the south of Heilungkiang, considerable tracts of the steppe are impregnated with soda, which appears as an efflorescence on the edges of brackish

pools. It is collected and boiled with water in iron pots till it forms crystals, which are scooped out and moulded into bricks or cakes. These are sent all over Manchuria for use in the dye and silk-reeling establishments.

Excellent peat is found in the south-east of the Liaotung peninsula, but owing to the abundance of coal is not much utilised as a fuel. Asbestos, also, though of low grade, exists in considerable quantity in the Kwantien district of Fengtien, and in the south of



MUKDEN RAGAMUFFINS AT A MERRY MOMENT

This little quartet of ragged Mukden boys have not been "taken" so often that the novelty has worn off, and the operation causes them much amusement. The eldest is supremely conscious of his wonderful cap

mined in the district of Sansing, in the beds of the tributaries of the Tumen, and in the valley of the Suifen rivers.

Gold is found in several places in Fengtien, and, twenty odd years ago, a rich deposit of fine red gold was discovered on the west slope of a gentle cultivated hill in a valley to the east of Mukden. For a time the farmers and their labourers reaped a rich harvest, but when thousands of Chinese flocked to the scene the authorities found it necessary to send soldiers to preserve

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the Liaotung peninsula. Along the southern coast of Fengtien salt is produced from sea-water by solar evaporation during the summer months.

The recent history of Manchuria is a story of colonisation, railway development, warfare, foreign military occupation, and a continuous struggle of conflicting interests.

As a result of the Chino-Japanese war of 1894-5 Japan claimed, *inter alia*, the cession in perpetuity and full sovereignty of the whole of the occupied territory in Manchuria, and this claim was ceded by the Treaty of Shimonoseki of April, 1895; but Russia, France, and Germany represented to Japan that the permanent occupation of the Fengtien peninsula would be detrimental to the lasting peace of the Orient, and Japan accepted the advice of the three Powers.

In September, 1896, China granted a concession to the Russo-Chinese Bank, in reality to the Russian Government, to form the Chinese Eastern Railway Company. This railway, to be

constructed with Russian and Chinese capital exclusively, was designed to connect the Transbaikial section of the Siberian Railway with the South Ussuri Railway between Habarovsk and Vladivostok. By 1899 the door was shut to all foreign railway enterprise save that of Russia, which desired to make Manchuria virtually a Russian province.

The Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5 made Manchuria the battle-ground of a more gigantic war than that of 1894-5, and led to much diplomatic discussion between Russia, China, and Japan. At the Portsmouth Peace Conference in 1905, the Russian lease of Port Arthur and Talienwan (called Dalny by the Russians, and Dairen by the Japanese), and the southern extremity of the Liaotung peninsula and the South Manchuria Railway were transferred to Japan, to which country China later gave the right to reconstruct her railway from Mukden to Antung at the mouth of the Yalu, where it joins the Korean railway system. Under the control of



WAYSIDE STALL IN DAIREN THAT SUPPLIES PASSING NEEDS

Seated stolidly by his varied assortment of wares this street vender of Dairen in his shabby, ill-fitting garments waits philosophically for custom. His goods, mostly in the way of luxuries, include toothsome tangerines, various brands of cigarettes, and the ubiquitous pea-nut. Trade should be tolerably good in this port of Manchuria visited by travellers and ships' crews from so many lands

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

MANCHURIA & THE MANCHURIANS



FEATHERED DEATH FROM THE ARCHER'S HAND

With his stout arc at full stretch this Manchurian Bowman stands, feet apart and arms braced, to speed his fleet shaft to the distant mark. He uses his belt for a quiver, though its carrying capacity as such is rather limited

the South Manchuria Railway there are now lines connecting the Korean port of Fusan with Changchun, Harbin, and Petrograd.

When Japan annexed Korea in 1910 her interests in Manchuria were increased, for the Koreans, who had been permitted to settle on the Manchurian side of the Korean frontier, under Chinese jurisdiction, became Japanese subjects and as such came under Japanese jurisdiction and protection. In 1915 Japan lodged with China the famous Twenty-one Demands, which, however, at the Washington Conference of 1921-22 she agreed to modify.

At the present day there are twenty-six ports and marts open to international trade and residence in Manchuria—four in Heilungkiang, eleven in Kirin, and eleven in Fengtien, the last including Dairen in the Japanese leased territory, where there is a Chinese Custom House controlling the trade between that territory and the rest of Manchuria.

In 1920, when the Customs tael in which China's trade values are expressed had an average value of 6s. 9½d., the sterling value of imports into Manchuria totalled £61,500,000 (foreign goods contributing £43,500,000) and the exports of Manchurian produce were worth £63,500,000.

The principal foreign imports consist of cotton goods, metals, machinery, electrical fittings, railway materials, kerosene oil, cigarettes, sugar, and gunny bags. The chief exports are beans, bean-cake and bean-oil, wild

silk and cocoons, eggs, bristles, cereals and flour, furs, coal, iron, cement, and timber. Cereal crops flourish well in many parts, but the fields are more usually given over to pulse. Several fruits, including the vine, thrive in this varied country, the climate of which is very healthy and has been compared to that of Canada; and there is no doubt that brigandage has been the chief drawback to settlement. Railways have facilitated transport, and thus greatly stimulated the agricultural and industrial development of the fertile plains of the Three Eastern Provinces.